

Idaho State Department of Agriculture

Annual Report 2005

Pat Takasugi, Director



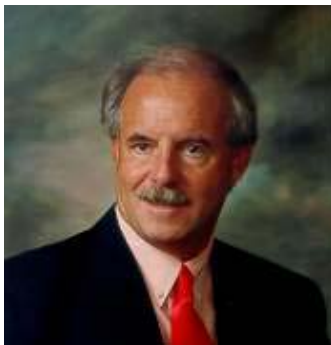
**Idaho State Department of Agriculture
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Idaho State Department of Agriculture Administration



Patrick A. Takasugi, Director/Secretary

Director Takasugi was first appointed to the Idaho State Department of Agriculture in March 1996, and then re-appointed by Governor Kempthorne in January 1999. Pat is a grower/shipper and continues to farm over 1,300 irrigated row crop acres of alfalfa seed, onions, wheat, pea seed and garden bean seed on fields near Wilder and Homedale. Pat is a 54-year resident of Idaho and a 27-year third generation farmer. Pat is presently a member of USDA's Agricultural Air Quality Task Force and on the board of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA), having served as president in 2003. He is also a member of the Farm Foundation, and the University of Idaho's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Dean's Advisory Board. Pat's objectives for ISDA include: To work with all Idaho commodity organizations in proactive partnership problem-solving; to promote and educate consumers about Idaho agriculture; and to efficiently administer the department in a business-like manner.



Mike Everett, Deputy Director

International Trade & Domestic Market Development Administrative Support Programs

The objective of the International Trade & Domestic Market Development group is to enhance the diversity and profitability of Idaho's food and agricultural enterprises. Our agriculture diversification programs help stimulate rural economic growth through the development of new crops, new uses of existing crops and value-added processing. Export market development is also a priority, which we enhance with ongoing promotions in key international markets. Along with supervising the above activities, the deputy director also oversees the administrative programs of the department including: financial management, human resources, information technology, and legal services. The role allows the department's director to spend more time working with industry and advocating for Idaho's agricultural community.

Division of Agricultural Resources

The Division of Agricultural Resources is designated to protect human health, the environment, and animal and wildlife species of the state from potential adverse effects of pesticides. The division registers, trains and licenses pesticide applicators and chemigators. Coordination with agriculture professionals, agencies, and the public has improved the processes in protecting human health, the environment, and fish and wildlife species of the state from potential adverse effects of pesticides. This division also incorporates the Engineering Section to provide professional engineering services and consultation to the agricultural communities of Idaho.

Division of Agricultural Inspections

The Division of Agricultural Inspections continues to make adjustments in order to provide the best service possible to the citizens, producers and shippers of Idaho. As Idaho continues to grow, so do the responsibilities of our Bureau of Weights and Measures staff. With the development of new technologies, new processes are being created and utilized to verify their accuracy to the Idaho public. The Bonded Warehouse program continues to improve with the implementation of new, more effective laws to better protect the producer, including those growers who grow seed under bailment contracts.



Lee Stacey, Bureau of Shipping Point Inspection

The Bureau of Shipping Point Inspection inspects and certifies the grades on more than 10 billion pounds of Idaho commodities. Idaho's commitment to quality is recognized throughout the United States and in the international arena. We are proud of the part we play in this endeavor. In order for our producers to sell their commodities to retailers, they have to have Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) in place as well as Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). This division is working with the private sector to offer auditing programs to accomplish these important goals.

Dr. Clarence Siroky, Division of Animal Industries

The Division of Animal Industries consists of the Bureaus of Dairy and Eggs; Animal Health and Livestock; Disease Surveillance and Diagnostics; and the Rangeland Management Program. Major functions include: disease control and eradication; animal identification; epidemiology; animal care and inspection; testing of animals; inspection of dairies and milk products; approval and inspection of dairy and beef waste systems; and the inspection and licensing of dairy processing facilities and various other animal agriculture facilities. Staff members also provide leadership in managing Idaho's natural resources and assistance in resolving rangeland management issues enhancing the viability of rural communities. This division's animal lab provides regulatory testing of animals for domestic and foreign markets; detection and control of animal diseases; and the testing of milk and milk products for quality, purity and adherence to standards of identity composition.

**Tom Dayley, Division of Plant Industries**

The Plant Industries Division is responsible for: consumer protection, export certification, pest exclusion, control of grasshoppers and Mormon crickets, certification of organic food products, and inspections of potato brands and potatoes at retail outlets. Division functions include: field inspections of crops and laboratory analyses for phytosanitary certification; survey and detection of exotic pests and diseases; registration of feeds, fertilizers, soil and plant amendments, nurseries, bee colonies and seed dealers; enforcement of quarantine rules; coordination of regional and statewide weed control activities; and advising and assisting county weed control authorities of noxious weeds. The feed and fertilizer lab analyzes samples for accurate label claims, while the seed lab performs germination, tetrazolium, purity, noxious weed, cold and other special tests for over 200 different crops from Idaho and nine other western states.

**Jerry Nicolescu, Idaho Soil Conservation Commission**

The Soil Conservation Commission was created in 1939 to address soil and water conservation and related natural resource issues. Commission staff fulfills this mission by providing support and services to Idaho's 51 soil conservation districts for the wise use and enhancement of soil, water and related resources. Staff members also provide technical, fiscal, and administrative assistance to districts and local landowners and users. Over 20,000 Idaho farmers, ranchers and landowners are served through soil conservation districts.

**ISDA ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

Ag in the Classroom
Commodity Indemnity Fund
Crop Residue Disposal Advisory Committee
Fertilizer, Soil and Plant Amendment Advisory Committee
Fresh Fruits & Vegetables Inspection Advisory Committee
Fish and Game Advisory Committee
Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Advisory Committee
Idaho Potato Industry Advisory Committee
Idaho Preferred Advisory Board

Idaho Seed Arbitration Committee
Idaho Seed Industry Advisory Committee
Idaho State Seed Laboratory Advisory Board
Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee
Organic Food Advisory Council
Pesticide Licensing Advisory Committee
Rangeland Management Advisory Committee
Seed Indemnity Fund
State Nursery and Florist Advisory Committee

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture

The Idaho State Legislature created the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) in 1919 to assist and regulate the state's fast growing agricultural industry. The primary purposes for establishment were to protect Idaho's crops and livestock from the introduction and spread of pests and transmittable diseases, to help provide the industry with a system for the orderly marketing of agricultural commodities, and to protect consumers from contaminated products or fraudulent marketing practices.

The department derives its statutory authority from multiple sections of the Idaho Code. Section 22-101 creates the Department of Agriculture and the position of director. Section 22-102 provides that the director "shall organize the department into such divisions and other administrative sub-units as may be necessary in order to efficiently administer the department," and section 22-103 lists specific directorial duties. Title 22 also contains the authority for the Plant Industries Division, the Agricultural Resources Division, and the department's Marketing Bureau. The primary authority for the Animal Industries Division lies within Title 25 and Title 37, while the Agricultural Inspections Division, which includes the Bureaus of Weights and Measures and Bonded Warehouse, derives authority from Titles 69 and 71.

In 1997, the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission was realigned to reside within the Department of Agriculture. While maintaining a level of independence, the commission and department work cooperatively to coordinate complimentary programs and responsibilities, especially in the areas of agriculture and related natural resources. The commission's authority is derived from Title 22, Chapter 27. Five commodity commissions - the Idaho Alfalfa and Clover Seed Commission, Idaho Honey Advertising Commission, Idaho Hop Commission, Idaho Mint Commission and Idaho Sheep Commission - are also technically housed within the ISDA, although each entity maintains its autonomy. The department works closely with all other agriculture commodity commissions and is currently helping the Idaho Aquaculture Commission get established.

The Idaho Food Quality Assurance Laboratory (IFQAL) was assigned by the Idaho Legislature to the Department of Agriculture on July 1, 2005. The department works cooperatively with the Idaho Food Quality Assurance Institute under its authority in Title 67, Chapter 83 to administrator the day-to-day operations of the laboratory.

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture is now 86 years old, but it continues to be a youthful, creative and vibrant state agency. In May 2005, the department unveiled a new website which is second-to-none in caliber and ease of use. The site contains detailed descriptions of the department's 65 statutory responsibilities, including an alphabetical list of programs under the agency's jurisdiction. Information on any function within the department is no more than two clicks away. Everything from news releases to smoke management program updates can be found on the website.

The site is managed by a web board which routinely meets to discuss new website innovations and uses that could benefit our customers – the agriculture industry and the citizens of Idaho. The website and its management structure are considered a model for other state agencies to replicate, and are expected to continue to provide the public a new level of access to the department for years to come.

The department is currently staffed with approximately 320 full-time employees. The Bureau of Shipping Point Inspection and other units of the department also hire hundreds of seasonal employees each year with as many as 325 being on-board at any one time in 2004.

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture has a current budget of approximately \$36.4 million. Only 27 percent of the budget comes from the state general fund. The vast majority of the department's funding comes from various types of fees assessed directly to the segment of industry being regulated or receiving services. Federal sources also assist the department with the funding of certain programs.



The Idaho State Department of Agriculture is housed in the Wilson "Bill" Kellogg building dedicated on October 12, 1979.

A Mission, A Vision, A Philosophy

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) has adopted the following mission, vision and philosophy to help direct the agency's regulatory, promotional, and policy-making activities toward a common goal:

Mission

Serving consumers and agriculture by safeguarding the public, plants, animals, and the environment through education and regulation.

Vision

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture has an ever-important place in one of the state's largest industry sectors. We recognize that Idaho's economic well-being is forever tied to the health of its farming and ranching. We also recognize that new opportunities exist that will redefine the future of agriculture in Idaho. As agriculture changes, ensuring efficient and superior service delivery will continue to be the department's foremost priority.

The director and his administrative staff believe that fostering an atmosphere of mutual respect – which encourages personal and professional development through education and training, as well as provides a challenging work environment – is crucial to departmental success. Personnel strive to work cooperatively at all levels, utilizing appropriate technologies and tools to support creative, responsive and accurate decisions. Above all, ISDA employees pledge to optimize the value of those funds entrusted to it, and to dedicate all of its resources to working towards the optimal benefit of all Idahoans.

Operating Philosophy

ISDA employees strive to maintain logical, harmonious and proactive working relationships with producers, processors and consumers to ensure the public safe food, alternative fuel and a domestic fiber supply, while simultaneously safeguarding the environment. Department members are a team of professionals dedicated to effective performance and are unwavering in their promotion of a positive future for Idaho agriculture. ISDA leadership seeks to promote a creative and highly motivated workplace that emphasizes personal and professional growth, while at the same time allowing individuals and agency policies to remain open to meet new challenges and seek new opportunities. Department personnel are committed to serving in a responsive, fair and ethical manner.

ISDA Goals

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture strives to be the model for government agencies, providing a careful balance of education, regulation and promotion of the agriculture industry in the state. ISDA will:

- Use our resources to maintain the highest possible quality and safety of food and fiber.
- Lead the nation in the implementation of an Animal Identification program.
- Provide immediate response to complaints including animal care issues, odors and smoke management
- Protect the public by ensuring the accuracy of scales and fuel pumps.
- Promote public awareness, education and understanding of the agriculture industry.
- Be transparent in our daily interaction with the public.
- Engage policymakers and industry groups in discussions on issues of concern or interest to the well-being of agriculture in the state.
- Increase the economic diversity and vitality of Idaho agriculture.
- Expand domestic and international markets for Idaho food and agriculture products.
- Work cooperatively with the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission and other stakeholders to protect and improve Idaho's water quality.
- Promote a customer-focused environment.
- Increase the effectiveness and efficiency of departmental operations, mindful that we are the stewards of the public and industry monies entrusted to us.
- Increase the overall professional capabilities of department employees, in order to better serve the public.
- Improve communication lines with internal and external customers.

ISDA 2005 Budget Highlights

| <i>Operating Budget</i> | FY2002 Actual | FY2003 Actual | FY2004 Actual | FY2005 Approp | FY2006 Approp |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>By Program:</i> | | | | | |
| Administration | 1,445,500 | 1,629,600 | 1,722,800 | 1,752,200 | 1,959,400 |
| Animal Industries | 5,422,900 | 5,289,500 | 4,926,200 | 5,809,900 | 6,073,400 |
| Agricultural Resources | 3,186,000 | 3,264,500 | 2,869,500 | 3,384,700 | 3,613,400 |
| Plant Industries | 2,838,900 | 3,115,400 | 3,652,300 | 3,828,400 | 7,382,400 |
| Agricultural Inspections | 10,192,200 | 10,201,100 | 6,956,600 | 10,419,100 | 10,883,700 |
| Marketing and Development | 1,842,500 | 2,664,500 | 1,354,500 | 1,014,600 | 1,036,600 |
| Animal Damage Control | 400,300 | 392,400 | 381,300 | 407,300 | 407,300 |
| Sheep Commission | 169,800 | 169,800 | 116,300 | 176,500 | 182,800 |
| Soil Conservation Commission | 4,425,300 | 4,425,300 | 4,181,800 | 4,435,200 | 4,859,900 |
| Total | 31,152,100 | 31,152,100 | 26,161,300 | 31,227,900 | 36,398,900 |
| <i>By Fund Category:</i> | | | | | |
| General | 10,645,000 | 9,892,000 | 9,442,800 | 9,497,600 | 9,962,800 |
| Dedicated/Other | 15,539,900 | 16,928,200 | 12,857,000 | 18,123,800 | 19,941,500 |
| Federal | 3,822,900 | 4,331,900 | 3,861,500 | 3,606,500 | 6,494,600 |
| Total | 30,007,800 | 31,152,100 | 26,161,300 | 31,227,900 | 36,398,900 |
| % Change from Previous Year | 11.03% | -2.20% | -14.7% | 18.45% | 16.56% |
| <i>By Object of Expenditure:</i> | | | | | |
| Personnel Costs | 15,687,600 | 19,157,400 | 15,169,500 | 19,892,800 | 22,186,000 |
| Operating Expenditures | 5,227,500 | 6,285,000 | 6,134,600 | 6,234,300 | 8,264,100 |
| Capital Outlay | 1,048,400 | 350,600 | 622,900 | 524,000 | 1,265,100 |
| Trustee/Benefit Payments | 8,044,300 | 5,359,100 | 4,234,300 | 4,576,800 | 4,683,700 |
| Total | 30,007,800 | 31,152,100 | 26,161,300 | 31,227,900 | 36,398,900 |
| Full-Time Positions (FTP) | 207.56 | 207.56 | 202.6 | 206.6 | 226.6 |

ISDA 2005 Legislation



H33: Crop Residue Disposal - Defined the term economically viable alternative to mean “an alternative to thermal residue disposal that: (a) achieves agricultural objectives comparable to thermal disposal for the factors listed in section 22-4803(1)(a) through (c) and (2), Idaho Code; and (b) allows growers to experience a financial rate of return over the short- and long-term consistent with the rate of return that would occur if thermal residue disposal were utilized.

(Idaho Code, Title 22, Chapter 48, Section 2 - Effective: 07/01/05)

H34: Civil Penalty for Animal Disease Programs - This legislation provided for civil penalty authority for violations of the animal disease control laws and rules. The department already has this authority for violations of the Brucellosis law and rules. This new statute allows the department to address disease control violations, other than Brucellosis, in a more timely and expeditious manner.

(Idaho Code, Title 25, Chapter 2, Section 38 - Effective: 07/01/05)

H36: Commercial Fertilizers – This legislation added to existing law to prohibit local regulation and legislation relating to fertilizers; to provide that local legislation relating to fertilizers is void and unenforceable; and to clarify that specified restrictions shall not preempt certain county or city local zoning ordinances. This legislation followed the recommendations of the uniform bills committee of the Association of American Plant Food Control Officials for fertilizers and soil and plant amendment laws. This new statute does not preempt local zoning ordinances on siting of facilities manufacturing, storing, or selling these products.

(Idaho Code, Title 22, Chapter 6, Section 26 - Effective: 07/01/05)

H37: Soil and Plant Amendments – This legislation added to existing law to prohibit local regulation and legislation relating to soil and plant amendments; to provide that local legislation relating to soil and plant amendments is void and unenforceable; and to clarify that specified restrictions shall not preempt certain county or city local zoning ordinances. This legislation followed the recommendations of the uniform bills committee of the Association of American Plant Food Control Officials for fertilizers and soil and plant amendment laws. This new statute does not preempt local zoning ordinances on siting of facilities manufacturing, storing, or selling these products.

(Idaho Code, Title 22, Chapter 22, Section 26 - Effective: 07/01/05)

H392: CREP Appropriations - This bill provided a Statewide Water Funding Package to address statewide water issues driven by drought, water supply, and basic demands of economic development. This investment of \$34.15 million will contribute to the stability and economic well being of all citizens of the state of Idaho. The legislation authorized the Water Resource Board to proceed with the purchase of water rights owned by the Bell Rapids Mutual Irrigation Company. It then authorized the Board to lease part of those water rights to the Bureau of Reclamation. It also provides for loans to implement the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program for 21 counties in southeastern Idaho and staffing to provide technical assistance. Along with providing staffing for the Department of Water Resources and one-time funding for specified water projects in the northern part of the state, it also authorized an additional three full-time equivalent positions for the Soil Conservation Commission along with an additional \$360,000.

(Session Law Chapter 328 - Section 1 & 4 effective: 04/07/15; All other sections effective 07/01/05)

H401: Seeds – This legislation added to existing law relating to the pure seed law to provide for statewide jurisdiction and preemption; and to clarify that specified restrictions shall not preempt certain county or city local zoning ordinances.

(Idaho Code, Title 22, Chapter 4, Section 13 - Effective: 07/01/05)

International Trade and Domestic Market Development

The objective of ISDA's International Trade and Domestic Market Development program is to expand markets for Idaho food and agriculture products, and to foster agricultural diversification. The department promotes Idaho food and agriculture products in Idaho and around the world. Total sales as a direct result of ISDA's marketing program totaled \$8,020,537 in FY2005. Every dollar in general fund returned \$15.16 to Idaho's farmers, ranchers, value-added food processors, and rural communities.



One of last year's highlights was the expansion of the Idaho Preferred™ Program. Initially funded through a federal grant, the program promotes the quality, diversity, and availability of Idaho agriculture products. By increasing awareness of goods grown and produced in Idaho, the program helps Idaho producers increase sales. These members participated in many opportunities to raise awareness among Idaho consumers, including in-store advertising statewide in Walmart, Paul's Markets and Albertsons. Print ads, in-store sampling and a spring promotion of non-perishable Idaho Preferred™ products at Walmart highlighted the retail effort. Idaho Preferred™ also sponsored and participated in three local trade/consumer shows: the Idaho Food Buyers' Showcase, the Sysco Food Show, and Taste of the Harvest. Each of these shows focused on different segments of the food industry, including specialty foods markets, foodservice, and consumers -



Silver Sage Elementary School in Meridian hosted a Healthy Harvest Celebration.

Another highlight for the Marketing Division has been the growth in sales of fresh potatoes to Mexico. The department has been cooperating with the Idaho Potato Commission and Idaho Grower Shippers Association to open the market to fresh potatoes for the past few years. In March of 2003, the United States and Mexico came to an agreement to allow entry of fresh potato shipments in a border zone 26 kilometers south of the border. In FY2005, Idaho shippers sent 79 loads of fresh potatoes into the Mexican market, up from 7 the previous year. This confirms Idaho's ability to comply with Mexico's strict disease-free requirements and introduces the quality of Idaho potatoes into a new market. The Marketing Department assisted potato shippers to become better educated exporters through Exporting Seminars that will continue to contribute to increased shipments to Mexico and other international markets.

On the international front, Governor Dirk Kempthorne led a two-week trade mission to Asia in May of 2005. Valued Partner Awards given to key customers were presented in each city the delegation visited, which included Tokyo, Japan, Seoul, Korea, Beijing and Shanghai, China, and Taipei Taiwan. More than 60 representatives from 17 companies, three trade organizations and three state universities took part. Tourism, banking, agriculture, and high technology were just a few of the business sectors represented on the trip.



Albertsons advertises Idaho Preferred™ products in a special summer fruit promotion.

gaining further recognition of the program. In addition to food shows, the Idaho Preferred™ program went directly to consumers, presenting cooking demonstrations using over 20 Idaho Preferred™ products in numerous recipes. Another important focus of the Idaho Preferred™ program is school foodservice and education of Idaho students. The Idaho Preferred™ program was introduced to over 150 educators statewide as part of the Idaho Ag in the Classroom seminars. As a result, a pilot program that put fresh Idaho fruits on school lunch menus was implemented. Some schools expanded the program by hosting Healthy Harvest celebrations featuring Idaho food and agriculture products.



Governor Kempthorne at Costco in Taiwan

In Mexico, the Marketing Division built on a cooking show promotion that had originally been suggested on the Governor's Mission to Mexico in 2003. In 2005, the program expanded to fourteen segments that were aired on the top two television stations in Northern Mexico. The shows featured an Idaho chef using Idaho ingredients to prepare dishes to local tastes. The promotion was focused on creating new markets among Mexican consumers for Idaho and Western U.S. produce and processed foods.

The efforts in Mexico also developed a significant market for Idaho wheat. The department received a Quality Samples Program Grant from USDA that facilitated the shipment of 270 railcars of Klasic Hard White Wheat and Hard Red Wheat during FY'05 valued at over \$3.15 million.

This past year, the department participated in the Food and Hotel Korea show in Seoul, ExpoAgro Show in Culiacan, Mexico, and the National Restaurant Association Show in Chicago. The marketing division hosted numerous trade teams, sponsored four educational workshops, published several brochures and directories, and managed three federal grants.



Idaho Chef films cooking shows in Monterrey, Mexico.

In 2005 the Non-fat Dry Milk Livestock Feed Assistance Program was once again administered by the department. The division administered this federal drought relief program designed to provide feed assistance to producers of beef, bison, sheep and goats in twenty-six drought-stricken counties. Over 42.8 million pounds of non-fat dry milk (NDM) were distributed to 1,583 producers. The total value of the assistance was approximately \$2,670,000.

The department manages the Idaho-Mexico Trade Office in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico. The trade office assists Idaho companies with market intelligence, buyer contacts, trade promotion, and government relations. Mexico is Idaho's third largest export market for agriculture and one of the fastest growing. Idaho agriculture exports to Mexico grew 68% in the last year.

ISDA actively addresses international trade barriers such as tariffs, quotas and phytosanitary regulations that restrict Idaho agriculture exports and limit market access. The department maintains an Idaho Trade Issues Report, which identifies 86 trade issues in 19 world markets. This report has been disseminated to state and federal officials including the U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Trade Representatives. The division has also been involved with numerous bi-lateral meetings such as the U.S./Canada and the U.S./Mexico Accord Working Groups.

For more information, call 208-332-8530, e-mail Laura Johnson at ljohnson@idahoag.us or view the marketing website at www.idahoag.us/marketing/.

ISDA Administrative Support Programs

The **Attorney General's Office** provides for the varied legal needs of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture through two in-house deputy attorneys general. The deputy attorneys serve as legal counsel and advisors to ISDA and associated commissions. Legal services include those relating to legislation, rules, contracts, policies, leases, disclosure of public records, administrative proceedings, contested cases, and personnel issues

ISDA's **Financial Management** section is designed to manage all budgeting, financial control, accounting, facility maintenance, purchasing, inventory management, and related financial activities for the entire department. The Financial Management section also provides customer assistance for all financial concerns specific to the department.

The department's **Information Technology** section is an integral part of ISDA's mission. By working with other members of the ISDA team, they strive to increase productivity by providing an effective, efficient technology structure for all ISDA employees statewide. ISDA's Web Manager is part of this group.

The department's **Human Resources** section directs all recruitment, compensation, classification, performance management, staff development, civil rights, risk management, payroll, and related human resource management activities for both classified and non-classified employees. ISDA employs more non-classified than classified employees. The programs established for these two groups are similar in most aspects, although there are some differences in hiring and termination procedures. ISDA's staff more than doubles with the addition of temporary employees during seasonal operations.

Division of Agricultural Resources



Applying Axion DF to winter wheat to control Italian Rye Grass

The Division of Agricultural Resources works to promote, direct, and ensure safe agricultural and environmental practices. The division registers pesticides, and trains and licenses pesticide applicator(s) and chemigator(s). Coordination with agriculture professionals, agencies, and the public has improved the processes in protecting human health, the environment, and fish and wildlife species of the state from potential adverse effects of pesticides. Major functions are described below.

The **Enforcement Program** investigates complaints of pesticide misuse, and monitors pesticide use throughout Idaho. Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) works through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to ensure compliance with federal and state pesticide laws and rules.

Compliance is achieved through educational seminars and audits, compliance assistance and regulatory activities. In FY2005 the division conducted 177 investigations, inspections, and compliance audits. Forty-eight allegations of pesticide misuse were filed with ISDA, which is the second lowest number of complaints received for a fiscal year. Two hundred eleven enforcement actions were taken consisting of 25 hearings and 26 civil complaints against applicators and/or dealers resulting in 20 civil penalties and 14 license suspensions. Other enforcement actions consist of 27 warning letters, 77 regulatory letters, and 13 stop sale, use, or removal orders. Nine cases were forwarded to EPA for review and potential enforcement action.

The **Pesticide Licensing and Certification/Pesticide Applicator Training Program** verified recertification credits for 921 seminars throughout Idaho in FY2005, with ISDA actively conducting training in more than 100 of them. Four major applicator training events occurred during FY2005: Environmental Care Association Conference, Idaho Potato School, and two regional events. ISDA continues to update the applicator testing materials to meet the demands of industry and the public. Two categories were revised/upgraded in FY2005. Over 8,000 pesticide applicators and dealers are licensed and supported.

The **Idaho Worker Protection Standard (WPS)/Farm Worker Safety Program** has been recognized as a national leader for its accomplishments. Since implementation of the program, WPS staff has logged over 59,000 contacts with the agriculture community including training 685 certified trainers, 8,721 handlers and 13,602 workers in safe pesticide use. The Worker Protection Program has increased pesticide awareness, promoted proper pesticide use, and encouraged the proper use of personal protective equipment. In FY2005, the Field Operations staff conducted 47 Tier I inspections, 12 Tier II inspections, and 48 WPS pesticide label inspections. Also during this year, 6 stop sale, use, or removal orders were issued on products that were not in compliance with the WPS labeling requirements.

The **Private Applicator Recordkeeping Program** continues to work with the United States Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service that requires certified private applicators to maintain Restricted Use Pesticide application records for two years. These records are inspected by ISDA personnel and can be made available to emergency medical personnel in cases of suspected human exposure to pesticides. In FY2005, ISDA conducted 150 initial recordkeeping inspections, issued three warning letters for record violations and conducted six follow-up inspections from a warning letter issued in FY2004. Since entering into the cooperative agreement with USDA, ISDA has published a recordkeeping handbook in English and Spanish for private applicators in Idaho; published a brochure that outlines recordkeeping requirements for private applicators, professional applicators and dealers; made over 5,000 personal contacts concerning the program; and conducted over 1,000 inspections in Idaho. In addition, ISDA is developing a downloadable private applicator recordkeeping program through the Idaho OnePlan.

The **Container Recycling Project (CROP)** is a cooperative venture with private industry to recycle empty pesticide containers. Over 130,000 containers were processed in calendar year 2004. The chipped plastic containers may be recycled into truck beds, pallets, fence posts, speed bumps, and parking lot stops. The **Pesticide Disposal Program (PDP)** is a free program for users to dispose of unusable pesticides in an environmentally conscientious manner. The program conducts two major collections each year - one in the spring, which serves southwest and northern Idaho, and one in the fall that serves eastern and central Idaho. The PDP will hold a collection in conjunction with Canyon County's Household Hazardous Waste collection in the fall of 2005. Over a half million pounds of unusable pesticides have been safely and properly disposed of since the start of the program.

The **Water Quality Program** implements agricultural monitoring and protection programs with public and private partners to protect ground and surface water quality. ISDA leads the implementation of the *Agricultural Ground Water Quality Protection Program for Idaho (1996)* through the Agricultural Ground Water Coordination Committee. ISDA implements ground water monitoring and protection projects related to pesticides, nutrients, and animal waste impacts. ISDA also works with the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission (SCC) to implement an Agricultural Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Monitoring Program related to the Clean Water Act. ISDA works with Soil Conservation Districts to evaluate sources of agricultural contaminants and Best Management Practices (BMPs). Information dissemination and local coordination with the agriculture community and the general public are key to the success of the water quality programs.

The Idaho Pesticide and **Chemigation** law requires that a minimum of 250 chemigation inspections be conducted each year and that goal was accomplished in FY2005. Also, as part of the EPA Cooperative Agreement, ISDA conducts a minimum of five chemigation USE inspections each year. Again, ISDA achieved that goal in FY2005. ISDA has added many chemigation devices to its list of approved equipment and has developed application forms for equipment approval and independent laboratory testing. Updated lists of approved chemigation equipment and the equipment approval and testing forms can now be found on ISDA's chemigation web page.

The **Urban Pesticide Program** works with non-agriculture pesticide users to promote the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to control pests in urban situations. During FY2005, the IPM-specific training was largely dedicated to mosquito control techniques. Approximately 2,200 individuals attended mosquito control presentations during the winter of 2004-2005. ISDA collaborated with Ada County Mosquito Abatement District, Southwest District Health Department, Western Region Integrated Pest Management Center, and the University of Idaho to host a mosquito control technician training during April in Nampa, Idaho. Sixty individuals participated in this small team/hands-on training. The emphasis on mosquito control is in anticipation that West Nile Virus cases will be on the rise in Idaho during 2005. Additionally, ten anti-microbial (disinfectants and sterilants) use inspections were conducted in food processing establishments. Educational exhibits were presented at three professional association meetings and State Fairs (estimated 50,000 viewers).

The **Engineering** Section provides professional engineering services and consultation to the agricultural communities of Idaho. These services include planning, design, construction inspection, and approval of livestock waste facilities and land treatment systems; providing technical information regarding environmental issues; chemigation training and inspections; on-farm implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs); and management of the Nutrient Management Program.

The **Smoke Management and Crop Residue Disposal (CRD) Program** manages the practice of burning crop residue to control disease, weeds, and pests, while maintaining federal and state mandated air quality standards. Approximately 107,000 acres of cropland were registered in this program for FY2004. The program has effectively demonstrated that agricultural burning practices can be managed to reduce the impact of smoke on Idaho's population while maintaining the tool of field burning for growers.

Recent Achievements

- Conducted water quality monitoring, and coordinated with statewide and local water quality improvement plans and projects.
- Successfully integrated Smoke Management/CRD program.
- Processed over 130,000 recyclable containers in 2004.
- Combined the fall pesticide collection with Canyon County's Hazardous Waste Collection.
- Completed negotiated rule making to establish a response system for detection of pesticides in ground water.
- Over 59,000 contacts made with the agricultural community since implementation of the worker protection standard program.



Example of a Linear Chemigation system.

Future Goals

- Food Quality Protection Act implementation.
- Complete the Idaho State Pesticide Management Plan for Ground Water Protection and implement Rules
- Develop BMP effectiveness protocols for agricultural TMDL program.
- IPM training and outreach to retailers of general use pesticides.
- Implement a comprehensive statewide nitrate and ground water protection process.
- Publish separate exams and study guides for greenhouse chemigation and farm chemigation operations.

Division of Agricultural Inspections

Bureau of Shipping Point Inspection

The Federal Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Service was started in 1917, but its authority was restricted to work in destination markets where the inspections were only made by Federal Market Inspectors. In 1922, Congress extended the service to shipping points by adding to the authority the words, “when offered for interstate shipment,” and so began Idaho’s Bureau of Shipping Point Inspection. This service is a joint federal-state program entirely supported by fees collected from users of the service.



SPI inspected over 36, 241,918 pounds of apples last year.

This bureau maintains a Boise headquarters staff along with four district offices strategically located in Idaho’s production areas. Present locations are: Caldwell, Burley, Blackfoot, and Idaho Falls. The bureau is the largest within the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), serving producers, shippers and processors in 36 of the state’s 44 counties. Annually, the bureau performs inspections on 10 different commodities and certifies over 13 billion pounds of produce. To provide this service, the bureau supports a staff of 475 employees in 17 different job classifications. Although some positions are staffed year-round, 75 percent of the workforce is employed in seasonal, part-time positions.

Employees of the Shipping Point Inspection program inspect commodities for quality and condition at the shipping point, using official grade standards developed by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and ISDA for fresh fruits and vegetables. The Bureau of Shipping Point Inspection established a third party auditing program that helps Idaho producers and shippers meet the increasing demand for Good Management Practices (GMPs) and Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs). The bureau conducts ranch (field), harvest crew, packinghouse, and educational (walk-through) food safety audits on fruits and vegetables for both the fresh pack and processing industry.

The Dealers in Farm Produce Act is also part of this bureau’s responsibilities. Those subject to licensing and bonding under this law are buyers, brokers and commission merchants who deal in potatoes, hay, onions, and other commodities not covered under the bonded warehouse or commodity dealer laws.

Recent Achievements

- Developed a Customer Assisted Inspection Program, which allows shippers and packers to be involved in the certification process resulting in a 50 percent cost reduction in inspection fees.
- In cooperation with USDA-Agricultural Marketing Service, developed a customer driven Federal-State Audit Verification and Training program for good agricultural and handling practices resulting in increased marketing opportunities for Idaho’s fresh fruit and vegetable industry.
- Reduced contract inspection costs to processors and producers by 15 percent.
- Issued phytosanitary inspection certificates on loads of fruit and vegetables certified and shipped to 18 different countries.
- Established a chemical maturity monitoring testing station to control sucrose and glucose content levels in potato tubers during the growing and development stages and during storage life.

Future Goals

- Improve communication between office, field staff and industry through computer technology.
- Expand technology and use with respect to electronic grading equipment and internal disorders in potatoes.
- Provide industry with services requested in a timely manner and at a cost-effective rate.
- Strive to achieve 100 percent compliance among individuals who are required to be licensed under the Dealers in Farm Produce Act.
- Maintain up-to-date information on all aspects of food safety and food security.
- Develop more precise information gathering and tracking practices through the timesheet entry program.
- Re-write Dealers in Farm Produce Act to be more in conjunction with current industry practices.

Warehouse Control Program

ISDA's Warehouse Control Program is responsible for regulating public warehouses, commodity dealers and seed buyer facilities. Idaho's warehouse and seed industries store and market a wide variety of commodities such as wheat, barley, oats, dry edible beans, peas, lentils, and a number of other diverse seed crops grown in Idaho.

Warehouse examiners conduct reviews, which help to ensure that a warehouse operator continues to maintain a stock of commodities reflective of what has been deposited by producers. Commodity dealers are also examined to ensure that producers are being paid for their agricultural commodities.

The Commodity Indemnity Fund (CIF) and the Seed Indemnity Fund (SIF) offer additional protection for producers should a warehouse, commodity dealer, or seed buyer failure occur. These two \$12 million funds are supported by producers' assessments and allow producers to recoup losses due to such a failure.

Recent Achievements

- Entered into a Cooperative Agreement with the state of Washington.
- Developed and implemented a risk-based warehouse examination program.



Agriculture in motion.

Future Goals

- Develop the ability to perform a more in-depth examination based on risk analysis.
- Continued training of examiners to better serve licensed warehouses, commodity dealers and seed facilities and producers.

Bureau of Weights and Measures

The Bureau of Weights and Measures consists of eight field inspectors stationed throughout the state. An office specialist II, a metrologist and a bureau chief support the field staff. A ninth field position is currently being covered by the chief and metrologist. Bureau responsibilities include statewide inspection of accuracy and suitability of commercial devices such as vehicle and livestock scales, gasoline and fuel meters and propane meters. Packaged products are inspected to ensure net contents meet labeled weight, volume or count. Short delivery and misleading advertising are investigated and gasoline octane is monitored. The bureau also tests to assure accurate weighing of products and commodities bought and sold. The metrology laboratory provides traceable calibration of mass, length and volume for the bureau's legal metrology needs as well as for any entity requiring traceable calibrations.



2500 lb Russell Balance

Recent Achievements

- The staff completed training on electronic propane meter calibration. Training was held at the Boise office and included trainers from F-Rams and Liquid Controls.
- Instituted decontamination procedures for testing livestock scales to proactively prevent spreading livestock diseases.
- Modified existing field weight lifting system and installed wireless video equipment to improve efficiency in testing large capacity scales.

Future Goals

- Continue to work toward accreditation for the Metrology Laboratory by the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP).
- Continue to develop relationships with regulated industries and service personnel for better compliance with Weights and Measures laws.
- Accomplish 100% annual device inspection.
- Continue training for W&M personnel for safety and professionalism.

Division of Animal Industries

The Division of Animal Industries consists of the Bureaus of Dairy and Eggs; Animal Health and Livestock; Disease Surveillance and Diagnostics, and the Rangeland Management Program. The division has 47 full-time employees and an annual budget of approximately \$6.2 million. Major functions are described in the following bureau & program summaries.

Bureau of Dairy and Eggs



The **Bureau of Dairy and Eggs** provides oversight on the dairy and egg industries within Idaho. This oversight helps to ensure safe, wholesome milk, milk products, shell egg and poultry products for consumers. The programs encompass sanitary inspections of dairy farms, bulk milk haulers, processors, manufacturing and processing equipment, warehouses, stores and other businesses where milk and dairy products are manufactured, stored, sold or offered for sale. Other duties include inspection of establishments where shell eggs are packaged, stored or offered for sale. This bureau is responsible for the protection of ground and surface water from dairy farm waste, which is accomplished through routine inspections and testing of dairy farm waste handling and containment facilities, land application sites, and review and approval of new or modified systems.

In addition to state enforcement requirements, this bureau works in conjunction with several federal agencies through cooperative agreements or memoranda of agreement to protect the environment and ensure safe food products. Laws and rules require dairy farms to develop nutrient management plans (NMPs) on all licensed dairy farms. These plans aid in the appropriate applications of nutrients to cropland. A certification process has been implemented to assist in the development of these plans. The department uses ground-truthing plans to verify information and conduct soil tests to verify compliance. The bureau is responsible with enforcement of the Agriculture Odor Management Act as it relates to Idaho dairy farms. Dairy farms that emit odors in excess of those odors normally associated with agriculture in Idaho will be required to develop an Odor Management Plan to reduce odors. The bureau works in conjunction with the University of Idaho and the industry to find economically viable and effective means to minimize offensive odors on dairy farms.

Bureau of Animal Health and Livestock

The **Animal Health and Livestock Bureau** is responsible for regulatory animal disease control and prevention programs through the inspection and investigation of livestock, livestock facilities, and the movement of animals in intrastate, interstate and international commerce. Bureau staff participates in the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Cooperative Disease Control programs for cattle, horses, swine, sheep, domestic cervidae, ratites, llamas, poultry, and fish. The bureau shares one veterinarian with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game who works on transmissible diseases of wildlife as well as domestic animals. The bureau and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game are working cooperatively to address Brucellosis in free-ranging elk.

This bureau is responsible for the protection of ground and surface water from waste generated on beef cattle animal feeding operations, which is accomplished through inspection of waste handling and containment facilities, and review and approval of new or modified facilities. This bureau is responsible for ensuring the proper disposal of dead animals.



One of Idaho's domestic cervidae.

Bureau staff answers numerous questions and inquiries from the public, veterinary practitioners, and the livestock industry on matters pertaining to disease control, preventive medicine, interstate shipment, herd management, animal care, and waste management. They issue permits or licenses for animal agriculture functions and provide animal welfare education; investigate animal care complaints; and work cooperatively with law enforcement agencies and the court system in the resolution of animal care cases and animal movement violations.

Bureau of Disease Surveillance and Diagnostics

The **Bureau of Disease Surveillance and Diagnostics** is responsible for the prevention and control of emerging and emergency diseases affecting animals. The bureau coordinates with the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare to address diseases that are transmissible between animals and humans, and with the Bureau of Disaster Services on animal health emergency management. The bureau is working with livestock owners and producer associations to implement USDA's National Animal Identification System in Idaho. This bureau's **Animal Health Laboratory** serves consumers and agriculture through prioritized testing of animal samples and dairy products for diseases or agents targeted as most important to animal health and human safety.

Rangeland Management Program

The **Rangeland Management Program** provides leadership and technical support to Idaho agriculture producers.

The primary duties of this program are to provide technical support and assistance to Idaho rangeland livestock producers. This support is delivered to both individual producers upon request and to local groups and associations through leadership and participation in collaborative teams such as local sage grouse working groups. Services include assistance for planning and implementing Best Management Practices (BMPs), including grazing systems, range improvements, and inventory and monitoring. Support is provided to livestock producers in reviewing and mediating agency actions, including those actions imposed under the Endangered Species Act, environmental analysis and agency planning and management decisions, which impact private and federal grazing allotments.

The Rangeland Management Program provides service and support to producer groups such as the Idaho Cattle Association and the Idaho Wool Growers Association. It works with and supports the programs of the Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission and professional associations such as the Society for Range Management.



Stanley Basin Rangeland.

Recent Achievements

- Increased animal care investigations.
- Improved manure/odor management.
- Rewrote numerous regulatory rules for clarity and brevity.
- Over 15,000 Idaho livestock premises registered in the National Animal Identification System.
- Collaborated with Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security on Agro-Terrorism tabletop exercise for 8 counties in Magic Valley.
- Collaborated with ISU-Institute of Emergency Management in production of "Agroterrorism Awareness" interactive training CD which was distributed statewide.

Future Goals

- Improve Johne's disease management.
- Develop statewide animal care program in cooperation with counties.
- Continue to implement USDA's National Animal Identification System through premises registration, animal identification, and outreach through U of I Extension Service.
- Participate in National Animal Health Lab Network surveillance for foreign animal diseases.
- Educate more local emergency managers and producers on Agroterrorism potential and outcome to address the National Preparedness Goal for Department of Homeland Security.

Division of Plant Industries



Inspection of nursery stock for pests and disease

The Plant Industries Division is responsible for: consumer protection, export certification, pest exclusion, control of grasshoppers and Mormon crickets, noxious weeds, the certification of organic food products, and the inspection of potato brands and potatoes at the retail outlets. The division has 43 full-time and 25-40 seasonal temporary employees.

Consumer Protection

In 2004, the division issued 1,556 nursery licenses; 591 seed dealer's licenses; 589 registration certificates for 8,581 feed products; 355 registration certificates for 3,788 fertilizer products; 140 registration certificates for 459 soil and plant amendment products; and 71 beekeeper registrations. Division inspectors randomly sample to test for compliance to truth-in-labeling for pet food, animal feed, fertilizers, and seeds offered for sale. The laboratories conducted 3,018 tests on feed samples; 1,067 tests on fertilizer samples; and 12,742 tests on seed

samples. In most cases, deficiencies were corrected. If not, stop sale orders were issued: 39 on feed products; 26 on fertilizer products, and 43 on nursery products. Inspectors also conducted 895 nursery inspections for pests, diseases and noxious weeds. Through this program, the sale of animal feed products contaminated with aflatoxin, fumonisin or vomitoxin have been prevented. In addition, these measures have prevented the spread of noxious weeds by stopping the sale of contaminated seed lots.

Export Certification

Idaho is a major producer of agricultural seeds. In 2004, Idaho exported over 228 million pounds of alfalfa, field and garden beans, sweet corn, Kentucky bluegrass, peas, onion seeds, and miscellaneous agricultural products to 97 countries. The division's staff inspected 79,671 acres of crops; the plant pathology laboratory conducted 3,557 tests on 1,491 plant samples for diseases; and the division issued 1,063 state and 3,610 federal phytosanitary certificates. The division continues to work to overcome phytosanitary trade barriers, which restrict the export of Idaho agricultural products.

Pest Exclusion and Mitigation

The most important goal of this program is the early detection of invasive or exotic pests. Each year this division conducts surveys for a variety of endemic and exotic pests. This year's surveys were conducted for: apple maggot, Asian and European gypsy moth, cereal leaf beetle, European pine shoot moth, Japanese beetle, karnal bunt, Mexican bean beetle, sudden oak death, and wheat seed gall nematode. This program also provides data to meet the phytosanitary requirements for a number of countries and states, and validates Idaho quarantines. In 2004, no adult Japanese beetles were caught in detection traps. A single male Asian gypsy moth was captured by Idaho Department of Lands surveyors near Hauser, ID. Delimiting surveys and eradication efforts are planned for the spring and summer of 2005. Field surveys reported cereal leaf beetle for the first time in Benewah County. A cereal leaf beetle egg parasite insectary has been established at the University of Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station in Parma. Division personnel also released larval parasites as bio-control agents for cereal leaf beetle in Kootenai County. No other significant detections were made. The timely detection of these exotic pests allows for the effective control before these invasive species become established.



Inspectors inspect a bean field for seed export.



Laboratory recovery of cereal leaf beetle egg parasite.

Control of Grasshoppers and Mormon Crickets

Grasshopper and Mormon cricket population levels were not widespread this year, although high densities were observed at several isolated locations. Most complaints came from areas where the insects were actually in the crops or on other private property. Groups also worked cooperatively to distribute bait to farmers and ranchers in areas with heavy grasshopper infestations. Approximately 368,982 pounds of bait were distributed. ISDA participated with private land owners in cooperative area-wide control projects for 18,593 acres of cricket and grasshopper infested private and state-owned lands. Mormon cricket infestations have been increasing in Ada, Boise, Elmore, and especially, Owyhee counties.



Mormon cricket after an application of the growth regulator DimilinTM.

Organic and Hop Programs

In April 2002, the Idaho State Department of Agriculture received accreditation as an organic certifying agency by the United States Department of Agriculture National Organic Program. For organic certification, a producer/handler must submit an application; undergo an on-site inspection; and pay a nominal application fee. If all requirements are met, the producer/handler is then certified as organic for the crops grown, livestock raised or commodity handled and/or processed. With the publication of new National Organic Program rules, the state's certification program has experienced an even greater interest. Since the program's inception in 1990 it has grown from 11 participants to 211. From the end of August through September, this division also conducted 134 hop inspections.

Noxious Weeds Management Program

The Noxious Weed Management Program has the primary responsibility for implementing the Idaho Noxious Weed Law and Idaho's Strategic Plan for Managing Noxious Weeds. Staff provides leadership, training and support to local Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs) around the state. The 2004 Cost Share Program provided over \$1.3 million in grants to CWMAs and statewide groups to implement on-the-ground integrated weed management. The program applicants matched the Cost Share dollars with over \$5.2 million, treating over 203,000 acres and mapping over 347,000 acres. Over 1.4 million public contacts were made. Other programs administered by the staff include the Noxious Weed-Free Forage and Straw Program and the Noxious Weeds Mapping and Inventory Program. Personnel participate on the Idaho Weed Coordinating Committee, and the Idaho Invasive Species Council, along with helping to coordinate the activities of ISDA's Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee.



Spotted Knapweed in the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness CWMA area.

Recent Achievements

- Inspected 46 Idaho facilities for compliance with the United States Food and Drug Administration Ruminant Feeding Ban to prevent the introduction of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy into the U.S. cattle industry.
- Division staff presented information about the exotic pest detection programs at several winter professional meetings and conferences.
- Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) continues to support a plant pest survey and detection program manager.
- The statewide Strategic Plan for Managing Noxious Weeds in Idaho, created in 1999, was updated in July 2005.

Future Goals

- Conduct an industry audit of the feed tonnage reporting system.
- Monitor the survival and establishment of bio-control agents for cereal leaf beetle.
- Expand exotic pest surveys to Khapra beetle, tree fruit pests, and exotic potato nematodes.
- Continue to improve our turn-around time in the issuance of phytosanitary certificates.
- Develop a new feed, fertilizer, and soil and plant amendment computer database and registration system.
- Develop a paperless inspection, sampling and registration system for the pest detection, nursery-florists licenses, as well as the feed, fertilizer, and soil and plant amendment programs.
- Development of coordinated statewide biocontrol program.

Idaho Soil Conservation Commission

Created in 1939, the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission (ISCC) provides support and service to Idaho's Conservation Districts in the wise use and enhancement of soil, water, and related resources. The ISCC consists of five members appointed by Idaho's governor to staggered five-year terms. Three non-voting advisors have authorization to serve at the invitation of the ISCC: the state conservationist with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, the president of the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts, and the dean of the College of Agriculture, University of Idaho. The ISCC administrator manages the 24-member staff responsible for programs and water quality efforts in agriculture and grazing, conservation program delivery, and conservation district needs. Over 20,000 farmers, ranchers and landowners receive assistance through districts. Most staff work through a Conservation District in the field providing technical assistance directly to Idaho landowners and assisting with projects within public/private, local, state, and federal entities.



Buffer strips are an extremely beneficial approved Best Management Practice (BMP).

improvement; fish and wildlife habitat restoration and preservation; and the increased agricultural productivity of croplands, pasture and hayland, rangeland, and woodland.

The State Revolving Fund (SRF), like RCRDP, provides long-term, low-interest loans for conservation improvements on private and public lands. What makes SRF different is that no pre-set limit has been placed on amounts borrowed. Another important difference is the ranking system employed to determine project priority. The following list (in order of importance) is used when prioritizing potential projects: public health emergency or public health hazard; watershed restoration; and watershed protection.

Conservation Improvement Grants. Monetary grants are available through the WQPA. Grants may be awarded for improvements to water quality and soil conservation, and to demonstrate new or innovative conservation improvement practices/systems for rangeland and riparian areas. This program provides grants up to \$10,000 to individuals, partnerships, trusts, estates, private corporations or other legal entities. Qualifying practices must be implemented on public or private land identified as part of a project plan in Idaho. Grant monies must be matched by the recipient in cash, materials, labor, or use of equipment for the installation of practices. Grants are awarded based on rank according to set priorities and may be awarded as part of a RCRDP low-interest loan. For more information about availability of grant monies or eligibility, visit your local Conservation District, or find us on the web at www.scc.state.id.us.

The Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan (Ag Plan) is a dynamic guidance document that outlines the strategy for the abatement of agricultural nonpoint source pollution as it relates to water quality in Idaho. The Ag Plan was created to address water quality issues of water bodies impacted by agricultural nonpoint source pollutants

Programs – Water Quality Program for Agriculture (WQPA)

The WQPA was created to protect and enhance the quality and value of Idaho's waters by controlling and abating water pollution from agricultural nonpoint sources. This program provides cost-share assistance to entities implementing water quality projects. The commission selects projects for funding, evaluates program effectiveness in reducing agricultural nonpoint source pollution, provides technical assistance, and supports conservation districts in further planning and implementation

The Resource Conservation and Rangeland Development Program (RCRDP) provides long-term, low-interest loans to farmers and ranchers for conservation improvements. Loans are available up to \$100,000 for terms of up to 15 years. Projects should address environmental issues, including (but not limited to) the following items: soil and water resource conservation; efficient and beneficial use of water resources; riparian area



Wildlife habitat is another benefit of applying good conservation practices.

Clearwater Focus Program (CFP). The Clearwater River subbasin was designated a Focus Program under the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program in November 1996 to coordinate habitat enhancement and restoration work. The Clearwater Focus Program is co-coordinated by the ISCC and the Nez Perce Tribe Fisheries Department Watershed Division on behalf of the state of Idaho and the Nez Perce Tribe. The Focus Program is the largest coordinated effort in the Columbia River Basin. Project proposals are reviewed by the Independent Science Review Committee and then submitted to the council. The council then recommends accepted proposals to the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) for funding.

Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Project (USBWP) In 1992, the USBWP was established to restore and protect the habitats of anadromous and resident fish and to achieve a balance between resource protection efforts and beneficial use activities. The USBWP encompasses the Salmon River and all of its tributaries, from the mouth of the Middle Fork of the Salmon River to the headwaters near Stanley, Idaho. The project has a combined drainage area of over 4 million acres. The USBWP works to implement a variety of habitat restoration projects, including installation of riparian fencing, pasture management programs, irrigation efficiency improvements, diversion structure modifications, and ditch consolidation or elimination. Fencing projects have helped to stabilize stream banks and promote the growth of riparian vegetation, allowing reduced sediments in spawning gravels and shade for the stream. Improvements to irrigation systems yield more efficient water use throughout the basin, which leaves more water in streams, provides more spawning and rearing habitat, and reduces passage barriers.



Pumps like this one are critical components of the ESPA mitigation plan.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). Beginning July 1, 2005, the commission was legislatively mandated to implement the state's responsibilities in this anticipated USDA program. The primary goal of CREP is to develop and implement Idaho's land use and conservation component to conserve water in the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) by providing technical support in determining eligibility and enrollment; assisting landowners/users in implementing BMPs; and developing local groundwater management plans. The goal is to reduce water demand by 200,000 acre feet annually. The commission also provides leadership in the assessment of agricultural and private forest lands in Idaho relating to carbon sequestration potential.

Recent Achievements:

- Working with the Governor's office, awarded \$135,000 in grants for groundwater mitigation in the ESPA.
- Expended \$856,000 in cost-share incentives to local landowners for the installation of BMPs.
- Staff continued training for district employees and supervisors, training over 400 individuals in computer programs, laws affecting conservation, and personnel management.
- Provided 29 loans totaling \$1,214,830 through RCRDP, and 17 Conservation Improvement grants totaling over \$176,000.
- Provided support to 25 WQPA watershed project on 19 Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) watersheds to address animal feeding operation concerns and riparian habitat improvements.
- Completed agriculture and grazing components of seven TMDL watershed implementation plans, bringing the total number of finished plans to 30. Twenty-six additional plans are in various stages of completion.
- Funded \$1.3 million in WQPA projects leveraging an additional \$2.3 million in private and federal funds to treat 10 TMDL watersheds and two groundwater nitrate priority areas.

Future Goals:

- Continue statewide leadership for the development and implementation of TMDL watersheds.
- Complete three TMDL watershed implementation plans and initiate five new TMDL watershed-planning starts.
- Provide maintenance and support to 48 WQPA projects and ensure effectiveness and applicability in meeting TMDL objectives.
- Submit projects through the State Revolving Fund, which could provide an additional \$5 million to be used toward TMDLs and water quality programs.
- Develop Integrated Pest Management Range Management Components of the Idaho OnePlan.
- Provide local and statewide leadership for the integration of state and federal funding programs for implementation of BMPs within high priority TMDL watersheds.
- Utilize newly-established CREP to address continued drought issues in the ESPA.
- Continue to work with the Big Sky Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnership to explore state options.
- Continue to provide training and support to district employees and supervisors.